

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the title at page 1, line 7 as follows:

1. ~~BACKGROUND~~ BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, lines 16-19 as follows:

22. The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate as described in any one of the items 1 to 21, which ~~fruther~~ further comprises an overcoat layer containing a water-soluble resin on the image-forming layer.

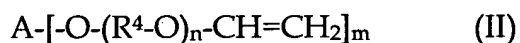
Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 20-25 as follows:

Examples of a reactive group which is contained in a water-soluble compound and features in the invention include reactive groups cross-linkable by acids, such as a cation-polymerizable group and a ring opening-polymerizable group, and reactive groups polymerizable by radicals (~~radical-polymerizable~~ radical-polymerizable groups).

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 15 and ending at page 16,

line 12 as follows:

The present hydrophobic compound is preferably a compound having two or more of vinyloxy groups represented by formula (I). When two or more vinyloxy groups are present in the compound, cross-linking reaction takes place with efficiency. Such a compound is a compound having a boiling point of 60°C or higher under atmospheric pressure, with suitable examples including vinyl ether group-containing compounds represented by the following formula (II) or (III):



wherein A represents an m-valent saturated hydrocarbon group, aromatic hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, B represents -CO-O-, -NHCOO- or -NHCONH-, R⁴ represents a straight-chain or branched alkylene group containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms, n represents an integer of 0 to 10, and m represents an integer of 2 to 6. The m-valent saturated hydrocarbon group, aromatic hydrocarbon group and heterocyclic group each may have a hetero atom and a ~~substituent~~ substituent, and the number of carbon atom in the m-valent saturated hydrocarbon group is preferably 1 to 60, more preferably 3 to 50, still more preferably 5 to 40, and the number of carbon atom in each of the m-valent aromatic hydrocarbon group and heterocyclic group is preferably 6 to 70, more preferably 8 to 60, still more preferably 10 to 50.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 25, line 3 from the bottom and ending at page 26, line 8 as follows:

On the other hand, the compounds represented by formula (III) can be produced, e.g., for the case where B is $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$, by reaction of polycarboxylic acids with halogenated alkyl vinyl ethers. Examples of such compounds include di(vinylxyethylene) ~~terephthalate~~ terephthalate, di(vinylxyethylene) phthalate, di(vinylxyethylene) isophthalate, di(vinylxypropylene) phthalate, di(vinylxypropylene) terephthalate, di(vinylxypropylene) isophthalate, di(vinylxyethylene) maleate, di(vinylxyethylene) fumarate, and di(vinylxyethylene) itaconate. However, these examples should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 34, lines 13-23 as follows:

In addition, addition products of unsaturated carboxylic acid esters or amides having electrophilic substituents, such as an isocyanate group and an epoxy group, and monofunctional or ~~polyfunctional~~ polyfunctional alcohol, amine and thiol, and substitution reaction products of unsaturated carboxylic acid esters or amides having

eliminable substituents, such as a halogeno group and a tosyloxy group, and monofunctional or polyfunctional alcohol, amine and thiol are also suitable. Examples of other compounds used suitably include the above-recited compounds whose unsaturated carboxylic acids are replaced by unsaturated phosphonic acids or chloromethylstyrenes.